

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH IN US
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: NEW DELHI 685

1. AN EDITORIAL IN THE JANUARY 15 "SUNDAY STATESMAN"
DETECTED IN PM DESAI'S JANUARY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL)
AN UNWELCOME DEPARTURE FROM HIS EARLIER-EXPRESSED CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH INDIA MIGHT ACCEPT FULLSCOPE SAFEGUARDS.
ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, THE PM HAS MODERATED HIS
POSITION IN THAT HE NO LONGER INSISTS ON A TEST BAN BY ALL
NUCLEAR POWERS AND THE REDUCTION OF US AND SOVIET WEAPONS
STOCKS. THE PAPER SAID THAT A CTB WITHOUT FRENCH AND
CHINESE PARTICIPATION WOULD BE USELESS AND DOUBTED THAT
EITHER COUNTRY WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE US AND THE USSR
DECIDING AGAINST FURTHER TESTS. DECLARING THAT SALT
HAD PRODUCED ONLY "NOTIONAL REDUCTIONS" IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT NEITHER SUPERPOWER HAD "SERIOUSLY
CONTEMPLATED UNILATERAL OR JOINT RENUNCIATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS." WHILE A "CREDIBLE AGREEMENT ON
REDUCTION IS UNLIKELY TO BE REACHED" SO THAT "THERE MAY NOT...
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BE ANY QUESTION OF INDIA'S ACCEPTING FULLSCOPE SAFEGUARDS
EVEN ON MR. DESAI'S TERMS", THE "STATESMAN" NEVERTHELESS
URGED THE PRIME MINISTER TO DEMAND THAT THE US AND THE
USSR PERMIT INSPECTION OF THEIR MILITARY NUCLEAR FACILITIES;
THE PAPER THOUGHT IT "INCONCEIVABLE" THAT THEY WOULD AGREE
TO SUCH A CONDITION.

2. A JANUARY 14 EDITORIAL IN THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" THOUGHT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT THE PM'S JANUARY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE HAD HELPED DISPEL "APPREHENSION" THAT INDIA HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS. REJECTING THE ARGUMENT THAT A CTB MUST HAVE FORMAL SANCTION FROM FRANCE AND CHINA, IT OBSERVED THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WERE "BEHAVING AS IF THEY ARE SIGNATORIES OF THE NPT." THE PAPER DISMISSED AS "CHILDISH" SENATOR RIBICOFF'S REMARK THAT FUTURE INDIAN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT NOT HONOR DESAI'S COMMITMENT TO FOREGO NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NOTED THAT THE US WOULD ALWAYS BE FREE TO REVISE ITS POLICY TOWARD INDIA. THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" WENT ON TO WONDER WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF THE US TENDENCY TO OVERRIDE ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO TARPUR, INDIA SHOULD "TAKE TREATIES ENTERED INTO BY PARTICULAR US GOVERNMENTS AS SIGNED ON WATER."

3. THE JANUARY 14 "HINDU" GREED IN AN EDITORIAL THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TAKEN A FIRM STAND AGAINST BIG POWER PRESSURE DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND URGED THAT RESEARCH PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO FREEING TARPUR FROM DEPENDENCE ON US ENRICHED URANIUM.

4. M.V. KAMATH COMPLAINED IN THE JANUARY 13 "TIMES OF INDIA" THAT US NEWS MEDIA WERE "SUPPRESSING" PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S ARGUMENTS THAT THE US HAS NO MORAL RIGHT TO PRESSURE INDIA TO SIGN THE NPT. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT

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SOME US NEWS COMMENTATORS BELIEVE PRESIDENT CARTER INTENDED HIS COMMENT TO SECRETARY VANCE TO BE OVERHEARD TO, INTER ALIA, DIPLOMATICALLY PUT ON RECORD HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH INDIA'S SAFEGUARDS POSITION.
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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